

Title	Assessing Community Environmental Health Concerns in Houston, Texas
Keywords:	PACE-EH
Background:	As part of its Environmental Public Health Tracking cooperative agreement, the City of Houston is assessing environmental health concerns in several neighborhoods.
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To determine community concerns • To develop methods to address concerns • To ensure EPHTN plans will address community concerns
Methods:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decided to use the PACE-EH tool • Secured consulting services from the University of Texas School of Public Health to assist with conducting the PACE-EH. • Determined set of criteria to choose neighborhoods. • Collected data on neighborhoods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presence of established neighborhood council ○ Number of environmental health complaints ○ Number of environmental health investigations conducted (e.g. cancer cluster investigations) ○ Number of know hazards (e.g. TRI sites) ○ Racial diversity • Choose neighborhoods and determined interest. • Conducted internal training on how to conduct the PACE-EH. • Held series of meetings with neighborhoods to gather concerns and develop strategies to address concerns. • Worked within health department and with other city departments to develop strategies to address community concerns and include issues of concern in EPHTN plans as appropriate.
Results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount of participation varied greatly by community. • Community residents had a variety of environmental health concerns. Many of these concerns involved community hygiene issues such as vermin, dumping, weeds, noxious substances, etc. Community residents wanted information about the relative amounts of chronic disease in their neighborhood.
Conclusion:	Conducting the PACE-EH will give the community an opportunity to bring up environmental health concerns that can be used to guide the development of EPHTN projects. Health departments using the PACE-EH may be challenged to address some of the issues raised by the community.

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